

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
MARK L. PRYOR, ARKANSAS
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA
BARACK OBAMA, ILLINOIS
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
JON TESTER, MONTANA

SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
TED STEVENS, ALASKA
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA
TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
JOHN WARNER, VIRGINIA
JOHN E. SUNUNU, NEW HAMPSHIRE

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRANDON L. MILHORN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

April 13, 2007

Mr. R. David Paulison
Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW, Room 820
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Director Paulison:

I write to you in response to your announcement that you are releasing a \$275 million to one project as part of the Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP). I also am responding to your letter of April 2, 2007, which my office did not receive until April 10. As you well know, the release of these funds does not honor my request that you hold final awards until Congress can fully investigate the AHPP process, awards, and allocations. Let me again reiterate my strong objections to your agency's handling of this important program for Gulf Coast residents, as well as victims of future disasters. The members of the Louisiana Congressional delegation, in addition to other members of Congress have all expressed concerns with the handling of AHPP by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Unfortunately, FEMA has done little to address these concerns in the past few months and your letter of April 2 further continues this trend. The Homeland Security Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery will hold a hearing on April 24 on FEMA's emergency housing programs in general, and the AHPP specifically.

It has been well documented that FEMA and other Federal response agencies performed poorly in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Following this disaster, much has been done to ensure that the Federal government, as well as State/local governments, are fully prepared for disasters which could strike at any time or place. In my capacity as Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery, I am committed to ensuring that Gulf Coast recovery efforts are done in an efficient and effective manner which is responsive to needs on the ground. I also intend to utilize this subcommittee to exercise strenuous oversight over FEMA which, as your handling of the AHPP process shows, is badly needed.

In your preparation for the upcoming hearing on AHPP, I respectfully request that you provide to my subcommittee staff, in writing, no later than April 20, 2007:

- The composition of the Denver AHPP "review committee," including names, positions, organizations, and a justification, if any, on why the individual was deemed an expert in new design or innovative approaches to semi-permanent housing. In providing this information, I would also like to receive a

breakdown of the ratio of Federal government employees to private-sector employees.

- Information on the timeframe of FEMA's implementation of the AHPP, beginning with the date of enactment of PL-109-234 and ending with the most recent action from the agency on this program. This information should include all reports to Congress, briefings for Congressional staff, and major FEMA actions on this program. I would like also like your agency to highlight the events that occurred in Fall 2006 between the announcement of program guidelines for the program and the submission of State proposals.
- An explanation of the FEMA's decision to administer the AHPP as a competitive grant program, including examples of previous FEMA-administered competitive grant programs, and the specific indicator in the bill language, if any, which guided the decision to structure the program in this manner.
- Written communications, if any, regarding the Primary Selection Official's decision to not fund the Mississippi Park Model and Cottage Project at \$381 million in addition to his recommendations on partial funding (85 percent) for the top projects from each competitive state. Furthermore, I would like to receive specific information if the Primary Selecting Official previously worked for, or represented any companies that submitted applications for AHPP and a copy of his signed conflict of interest form.
- Copies of each 29 proposals submitted for the AHPP, including schematics, drawings, plans, and other supporting documents.
- A breakdown of the top five scored projects in terms of cost per unit, the amount of trailers which will be provided, and the amount of individuals expected to benefit from each program. In providing this information, please indicate the State figures, as included in the proposal selected, and any adjustments in these figures, particularly in amount of trailers that will be provide, which have been made in subsequent State negotiations with FEMA.
- Clarification on whether projects receiving final awards are allowed to deviate from the model in their proposal and under what circumstances these deviations are/were allowed by FEMA. If any major modifications were made to proposals following the announcement of allocations, please indicate which proposals were modified and in what way the proposals were modified.

Given your agency's delay in responding to my previous correspondences, I request a written reply to this request no later than April 20, 2007, with a copy provided via fax or e-mail. This is to ensure that my subcommittee staff has sufficient time to fully prepare materials for the upcoming hearing.

Page Three
April 13, 2007

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary L. Landrieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being particularly prominent.

Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Ted Stevens
The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
The Honorable Susan M. Collins